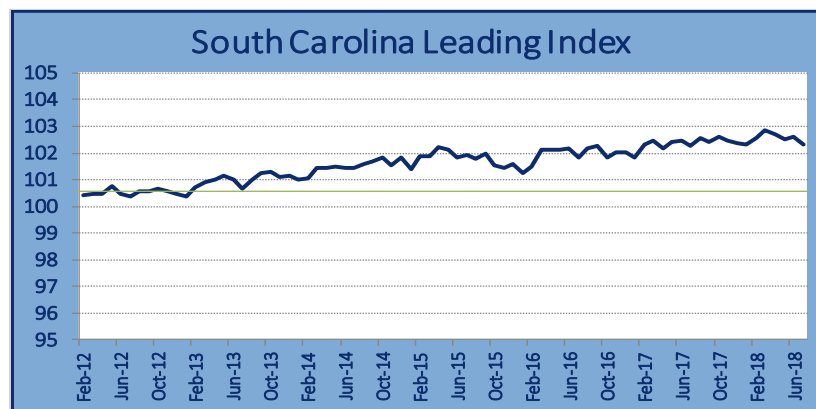


# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) fell 0.64 points last month, ending with a value of 101.96, following revisions.

Most key metrics sagged in September, likely as a reflection of Hurricane Florence's impact. The number of issued housing permits decreased by 27.5 percent, and valuation for the permits fell 32.4 percent. Unemployment claims were up 26.3 percent. The Dow Jones Composite Average rose 1.2 percent. Average weekly manufacturing hours dropped 3.0 percent.

The Conference Board's national Leading Economic Index rose 0.5 percent in August to 111.8, setting a record peak for the second consecutive month. Solid growth is expected going into 2019, as index readings over 100 forecast expansion of the economy.



Source: S.C. Department of Commerce

- Brandon Wilkerson

## KEY S.C. INDICATORS

### Income

+0.9%

#### State Personal Income

increased to \$216.4 billion in the 2nd quarter of 2018.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

-9.5%

#### S.C. Stock Index

fell 19.17 points in September, closing at 183.27 for the month.

Bloomberg

### Real Estate

+2.5%

#### Median Home Sales Price

rose \$5,100 from the prior month to \$210,000 for September.

South Carolina Association of Realtors

-27.5%

#### Residential Building Permits

fell by 992 permits from the prior month to 2,620 in September.

U.S. Census Bureau

### Employment

-0.9%

#### Nonfarm Employment

decreased by 18,100 net non-seasonally adjusted jobs from the prior month.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-0.1%

#### Labor Force

decreased by 2,325 to 2,304,195, seasonally-adjusted, in September.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-3.0%

#### Manufacturing Weekly Hours

fell 1.3 hours to 41.7 hours in September from the prior month, as revised.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

+0.2%

#### Available Online Job Postings

increased by 100 positions in September to a seasonally-adjusted 59,100 job postings.

The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

-0.1%

#### Unemployment Rate

improved to 3.3 percent, seasonally-adjusted, in Sept.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### About S.C. Commerce's Research Division

The Research Division is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary team of professionals that collects, examines and disseminates data to support economic development in South Carolina. The division furnishes information to companies considering an investment in the state and produces rigorous analysis for stakeholders of all kinds.

Those who wish to receive S.C. Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook can e-mail [bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com](mailto:bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com).

# South Carolina Employment

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment

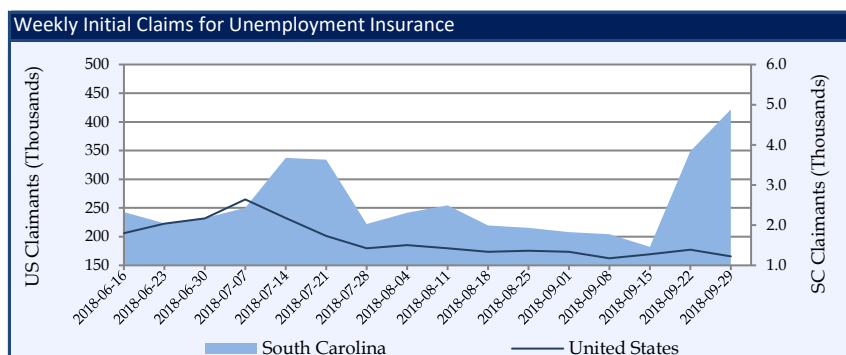
South Carolina's total non-seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment fell by 18,100 net jobs to 2,113,100 in September, a 0.9 percent decrease from revised August numbers but still 0.9 percent higher than one year ago. Job gains were concentrated in certain sectors for the month, with Government (+10,100) and Educational and Health Services (+4,900) leading the way. Manufacturing (+300) also saw a net gain month-over-month. Sectors reporting a net job loss included Leisure and Hospitality (-18,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-4,700); Professional and Business Services (-3,100); Finance (-1,400); Construction (-1,000); Information (-900); and Natural Resources and Mining (-200). Compared to one year ago, the state economy added 18,700 nonfarm jobs.

Industry Sector	September 2018	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>347,100</b>	<b>348,000</b>	<b>349,400</b>	<b>-0.26%</b>	<b>-0.66%</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,600	4,300	-4.35%	2.33%
Construction	98,400	99,400	95,900	-1.01%	2.61%
Manufacturing	244,300	244,000	249,200	0.12%	-1.97%
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1,766,000</b>	<b>1,783,200</b>	<b>1,745,000</b>	<b>-0.96%</b>	<b>1.20%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	404,000	408,700	401,600	-1.15%	0.60%
Information	27,100	28,000	25,900	-3.21%	4.63%
Finance	101,900	103,300	101,500	-1.36%	0.39%
Professional and Business Services	276,700	279,800	277,400	-1.11%	-0.25%
Educational and Health Services	256,500	251,600	248,600	1.95%	3.18%
Leisure and Hospitality	253,300	271,800	247,800	-6.81%	2.22%
Other Services	78,200	79,300	73,100	-1.39%	6.98%
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,773,400</b>	<b>1,773,000</b>	<b>1,725,300</b>	<b>0.02%</b>	<b>2.79%</b>
Government	368,300	358,200	369,100	2.82%	-0.22%
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,113,100</b>	<b>2,131,200</b>	<b>2,094,400</b>	<b>-0.85%</b>	<b>0.89%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Weekly Unemployment Claims

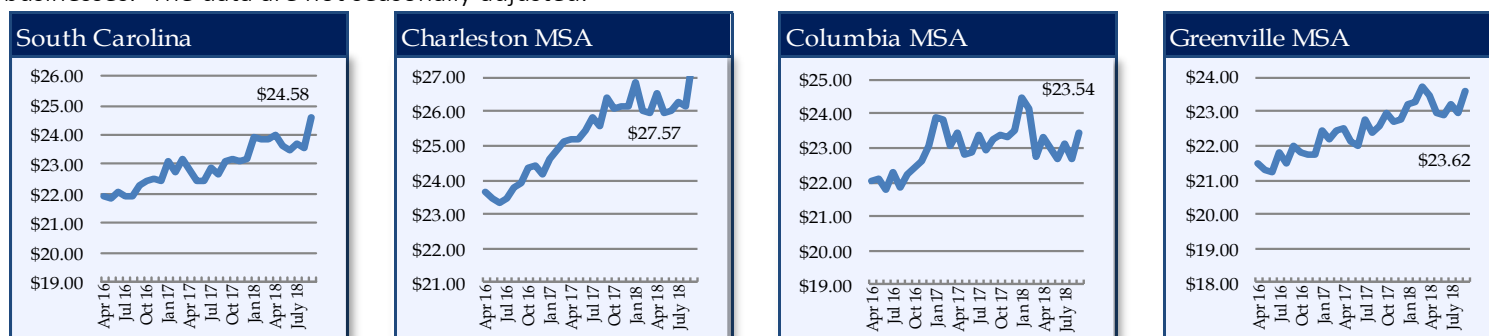
The average number of initial reported claims for unemployment insurance in the state increased in September. Hurricane Florence may have played a role in this shift. The average for the month was 2,758 weekly initial claims, up 26.3 percent month-over-month and up 29.5 percent compared to one year ago.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Average Hourly Earnings

These charts present the average hourly earnings of all employees in private industry, based on a monthly national survey of businesses. The data are not seasonally adjusted.



Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

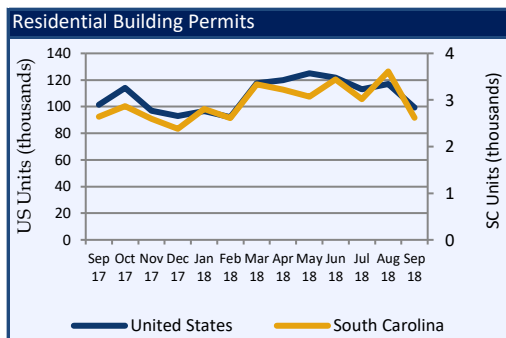
## Real Estate & Business Activity

In August, the number of building permits issued in South Carolina for new residential construction fell 27.5 percent to 2,620. This figure was 0.8 percent lower than one year ago. Valuation for the permits fell 32.4 percent month-over-month but was 2.4 percent higher year-to-date versus 2017. Total closings fell 30.1 percent compared to August; however, the median sales price went up 2.5 percent. Foreclosure activity decreased 18.6 percent compared to September 2017. Among the top six MSAs, total closings were down across the board. Despite that, median sales prices were largely up, with only Florence (-7.6 percent) and Spartanburg (-2.3 percent) reporting declines.

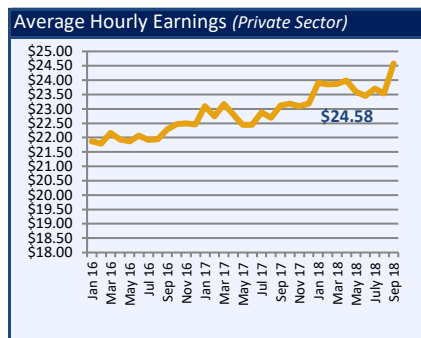
	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2018 YTD	2017 YTD	% Change YTD
Closings	September	5,692	6,674	-14.7%	62,209	63,834	-2.5%
Median Sales Price*	September	\$210.0	\$190.5	10.2%	\$203.0	\$188.0	8.0%
Foreclosures	September	1,256	1,543	-18.6%	14,695	16,414	-10.5%
Residential Building Permits -Total	September	2,620	2,641	-0.8%	27,738	25,950	6.9%
Residential Building Permits -Valuation*	September	\$486,008	\$580,470	-16.3%	\$6,037,933	\$5,895,099	2.4%

\* Thousands of US dollars. Source: S.C. Association of Realtors, RealtyTrac, U.S. Census.

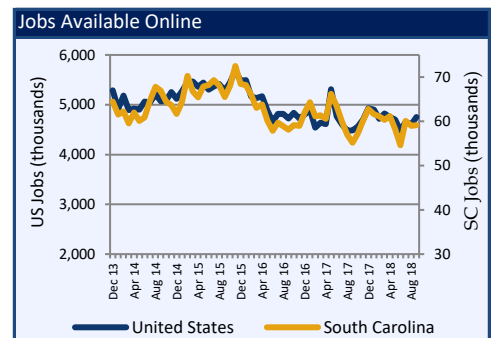
## Business Activity



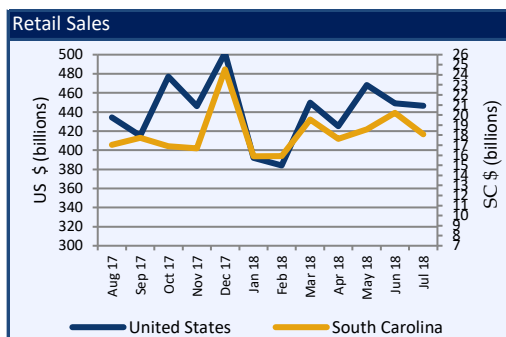
Source: U.S. Census



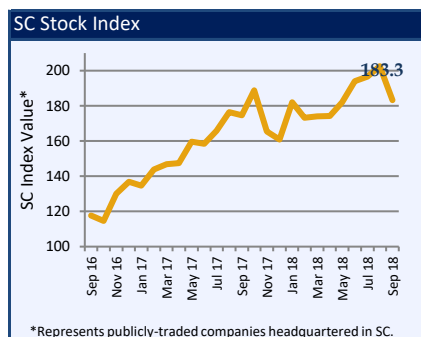
Source: U.S. Department of Labor



Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

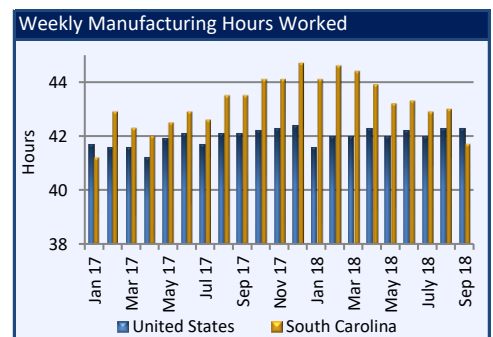


Source: South Carolina Department of Revenue



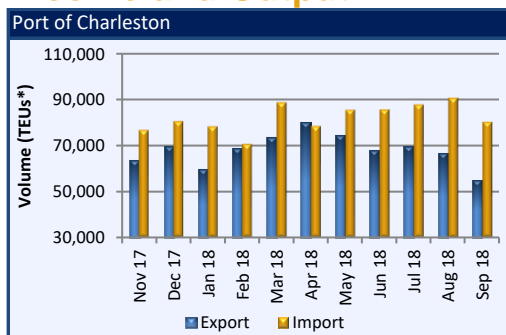
\*Represents publicly-traded companies headquartered in SC.

Source: Bloomberg

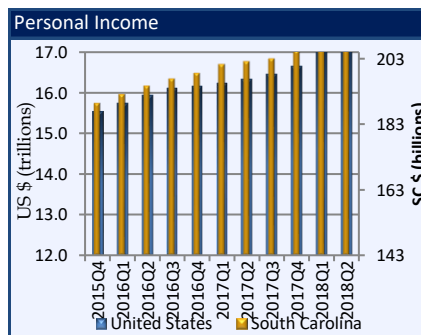


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

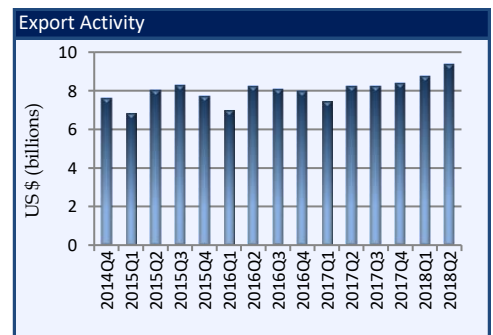
## Income and Output



\*Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units. Source: SC Ports Authority



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census



## Regional Updates

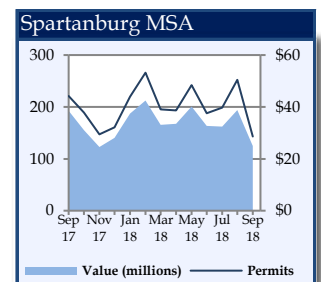
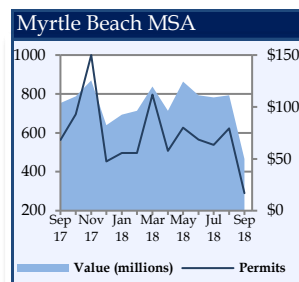
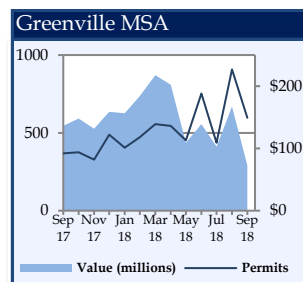
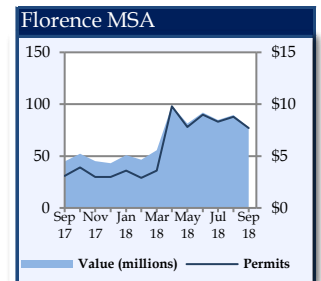
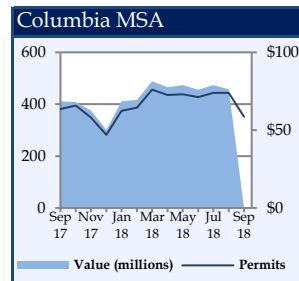
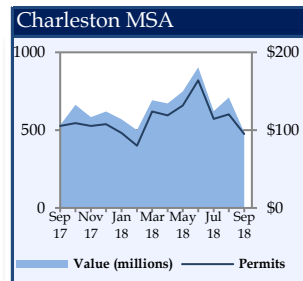
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state.

### Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	Sep 17	Sep 18
Charleston	Sales Volume	1,540	1,319
	Median Price (000's)	\$248	\$274
Columbia	Sales Volume	1,122	1,025
	Median Price (000's)	\$163	\$176
Florence	Sales Volume	170	161
	Median Price (000's)	\$133	\$133
Greenville	Sales Volume	1,128	1,046
	Median Price (000's)	\$190	\$208
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	1,206	761
	Median Price (000's)	\$188	\$197
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	429	387
	Median Price (000's)	\$158	\$170
South Carolina	Sales Volume	6,674	5,692
	Median Price (000's)	\$190.5	\$210.0

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors.

### Building Permits



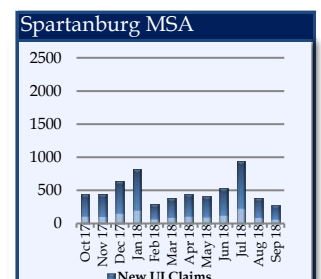
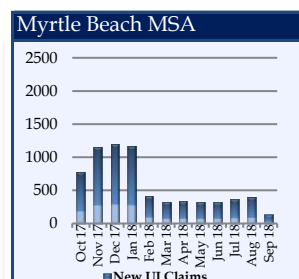
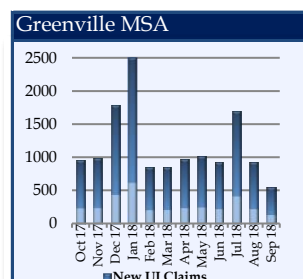
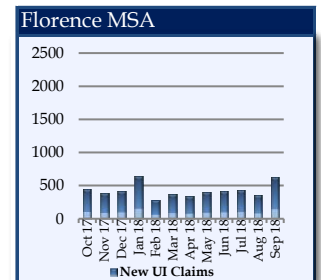
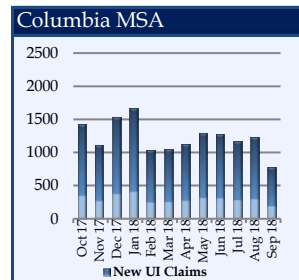
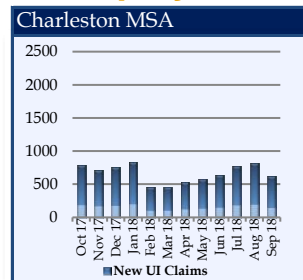
Source: U.S. Census

### Employment

MSA	Indicator	Aug 18	Sep 18
Charleston	Employment (000's)	366.9	363.7
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	2.8
Columbia	Employment (000's)	385.6	385.9
	Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.2
Florence	Employment (000's)	90.2	90.5
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	3.8
Greenville	Employment (000's)	407.4	409.3
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.0
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	195.1	185.4
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	3.9
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	151.6	152.5
	Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.1
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	2,227.8	2,227.4
	Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (unadjusted MSA figures)

### Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: SCDOC analysis of SCDEW data

### Average Weekly Earnings of Employees in Private Industry, September 2018

\$871.21

Charleston

\$794.96

Columbia

\$833.79

Greenville

\$859.58

Spartanburg

\$662.11

Sumter

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2018